

## REMARKS

Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

Currently, claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 32-36 were added in this Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 18, 21, 23 and 25-28 were amended in this Amendment.

Applicant has added two new paragraphs to the specification for clarity purposes. The two new paragraphs add new reference numerals, namely “piercing portion 179” and “piercing portion 233”. Applicant contends that no new matter was added to the specification by the addition of these two paragraphs as there is support for the matter in the two new paragraphs throughout the specification, the drawings and the claims.

Applicant has also amended one paragraph for clarification purposes only.

Applicant has further amended FIG. 2 and FIG. 4 in order to include the reference numerals 179 and 233 and their corresponding lead lines. Applicant contends that no new matter has been included to the specification because of these amendments.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 18, 21, 23 and 25-28 herein. Applicant has also added new claims 32-36 herein.

A version of any replacement paragraphs, on separate pages from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraphs (underlining or bracketing) is also provided herewith in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii).

A version of any amended claims, on separate pages from the amendment, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claims (underlining or bracketing) is also provided herewith in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

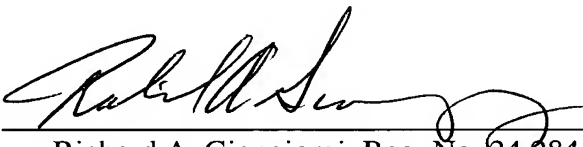
A clean version (no underlining and bracketing) of the entire set of pending claims, on separate pages from the amendment, is also provided herewith as detailed in 37 C.F.R.

1.121(c)(1)(ii).

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/29/02

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MARKED UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS IN  
CONFORMANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

*Paragraph starting at line 20 of page 12 and ending at line 24 of page 12*

- After the tapered projections 161, 215 enter the pilot hole to center the punch
- 5     100, the operator actuates a hand pump of the hydraulic punch driver such that hydraulic fluid forces the ram to pull the draw stud, which in turn pulls the punch 100[,] such that [the draw stud and the die on the pilot hole,] the points 138, 192 pierce through the workpiece and the workpiece is cut along the fourth and fifth top surfaces 170, 176; 224, 230.

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS IN  
CONFORMANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

1. (Once Amended) A punch for cutting a hole in a workpiece, said workpiece  
having a pilot hole provided therethrough, said punch comprising:
- 5 a punch body [having an axial bore therethrough for alignment with an  
aperture in the workpiece];
- means for cutting the workpiece, said cutting means extending from said  
punch body a predetermined distance; and
- means for centering said punch body with the pilot hole of the workpiece, said  
10 centering means extending from said punch body a predetermined distance [for  
centering said punch body with the aperture of the workpiece], said centering means  
extending from said punch body a greater distance than said cutting means such that  
said centering means enters the [aperture] pilot hole of the workpiece prior to said  
cutting means cutting the workpiece.
- 15 2. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 1, wherein said punch body has  
an axial bore therethrough, and wherein said centering means comprises a member  
positioned within said axial bore of said punch body.
9. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 1, wherein said punch body has  
an axial bore therethrough, and wherein said centering means comprises first and  
20 second projections positioned opposite of each other and adjacent to said axial bore of  
said punch body.
13. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 1, wherein said punch body has  
an axial bore therethrough, and wherein said cutting means comprises first and second  
piercing portions extending from said punch body for piercing the workpiece and first  
25 and second cutting portions extending from said punch body for shearing the  
workpiece.

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18. (Once Amended) A punch for cutting a hole in a workpiece, said workpiece having a pilot hole provided therethrough, said punch comprising:

a punch body having an axial bore therethrough [for alignment with an aperture in the workpiece];

5        at least one piercing portion [a pair of piercing portions] extending from said punch body a predetermined distance for piercing the workpiece;

at least one cutting portion [a pair of cutting portions] extending from said punch body a predetermined distance for shearing the workpiece after said at least one piercing portion [pair of piercing portions] has pierced the workpiece; and

10        a member positioned within said axial bore of said punch body for centering said punch body with the [aperture] pilot hole of the workpiece, said member extending further away from said punch body than said at least one piercing portion [pair of piercing portions] such that said member engages the [aperture] pilot hole of the workpiece prior to said at least one piercing portion [pair of piercing portions] piercing the workpiece.

15

21. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 19, wherein said insert has first and second ends, said first end of said insert being fastened into said axial bore of said punch body, said second end of said insert having a chamfered edge, said second end extending further away from said punch body than said at least one piercing portion [pair of piercing portions].

20

23. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 21, wherein said second end of said insert extends approximately 1/16 inch further away from said punch body than said at least one piercing portion [pair of piercing portions].

25. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one piercing portion comprises a pair of piercing portions, said pair of piercing portions are positioned opposite each other along an edge of said punch body.

25

26. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 25, wherein said at least one cutting portion comprises a pair of cutting portions, said pair of cutting portions are positioned opposite each other and extend generally from one of said piercing portions to said other of said piercing portions, said cutting portions have cutting  
5 edges along said edge of said punch body and extend from said edge of said punch body to said axial bore of said punch body.

27. (Once Amended) A punch for cutting a hole in a workpiece, said workpiece having a pilot hole provided therethrough, said punch comprising:

10 a punch body having an axial bore therethrough [for alignment with an aperture in the workpiece];

at least one piercing portion [first and second piercing portions] extending from said punch body a predetermined distance for piercing the workpiece;

15 at least one cutting portion [first and second cutting portions] extending from said punch body a predetermined distance for shearing the workpiece after said at least one piercing portion has [first and second piercing portions have] pierced the workpiece; and

20 at least one projection [first and second projections] extending from said punch body a predetermined distance and positioned opposite of each other and adjacent to said axial bore of said punch body, said at least one projection [first and second projections] capable of centering said punch body with the [aperture] pilot hole of the workpiece, said at least one projection [first and second projections] extending further away from said punch body than said at least one piercing portion [first and second piercing portions] such that said at least one projection engages [first and second projections engage] the [aperture] pilot hole of the workpiece prior to said  
25 at least one piercing portion [first and second piercing portions] piercing the workpiece.

28. (Once Amended) A punch as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one  
piercing portion comprises first and second piercing portions, said at least one cutting  
portion comprises first and second cutting portions, and said at least one projection  
comprises first and second projections, said first piercing portion has first and second  
5 surfaces which meet to form a point, said first surface of said first piercing portion  
slopes downwardly from said point of said first piercing portion toward said first  
projection and said first cutting portion, said second surface of said first piercing  
portion extends axially downwardly to said second cutting portion, [and wherein] said  
second piercing portion has first and second surfaces which meet to form a point, said  
10 first surface of said second piercing portion slopes downwardly from said point of  
said second piercing portion toward said second projection and said second cutting  
portion, said second surface of said second piercing portion extends axially  
downwardly to said first cutting portion.

32. (New) A punch for cutting a hole in a workpiece, said workpiece having a pilot hole provided therethrough, said punch comprising:

a punch body having an axial bore therethrough;

first and second piercing portions extending from said punch body a  
5 predetermined distance for piercing the workpiece; and

first and second cutting portions extending from said punch body a  
predetermined distance for shearing the workpiece after said at least one piercing  
portion has pierced the workpiece,

wherein said first piercing portion has first and second surfaces which meet to  
10 form a point, said first surface of said first piercing portion slopes downwardly from  
said point of said first piercing portion toward said axial bore and said first cutting  
portion, said second surface of said first piercing portion extending axially  
downwardly to said second cutting portion, and wherein said second piercing portion  
has first and second surfaces which meet to form a point, said first surface of said  
15 second piercing portion slopes downwardly from said point of said second piercing  
portion toward said axial bore and said second cutting portion, said second surface of  
said second piercing portion extends axially downwardly to said first cutting portion.

33. (New) A punch as defined in claim 32, wherein said first cutting portion  
slopes downwardly from said first surface of said first piercing portion to said second  
20 surface of said second piercing portion, and wherein said second cutting portion  
slopes downwardly from said first surface of said second piercing portion to said  
second surface of said first piercing portion, such that said first and second cutting  
portions slope downwardly in opposite directions.

34 (New) A punch as defined in claim 33, wherein said first and second cutting  
25 portions have outer peripheral edges which form cutting edges on opposite sides of  
said punch body.



35. (New) A punch as defined in claim 32, further including first and second projections extending from said punch body a predetermined distance and positioned opposite of each other and adjacent to said axial bore, said first and second projections capable of centering said punch body with the pilot hole of the workpiece, said first and second projections extending further away from said punch body than said first and second piercing portions such that said first and second projections engage the pilot hole of the workpiece prior to said first and second piercing portions piercing the workpiece.

36. (New) A punch as defined in claim 32, further including an insert member positioned within said axial bore for centering said punch body with the pilot hole of the workpiece, said insert member extending further away from said punch body than said first and second piercing portions such that said insert member engages the pilot hole of the workpiece prior to said first and second piercing portions piercing the workpiece.

